



August 1, 2000

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NATIONAL

FOOD

PROCESSORS

ASSOCIATION

Dockets Management Branch
(HFA-305)
Food and Drug Administration
Room 1061
5630 Fishers Lane
Rockville, MD 20852

REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF COMMENT PERIOD

[Docket No. 00N-1351] Food Labeling; Use of the Term "Fresh" for
Foods Processed with Alternative Nonthermal Technologies; Public
Meeting

65 Federal Register 41029, July 3, 2000.

Dear Sir or Madam:

1350 I Street, NW
Suite 300

Washington, DC 20005
202-639-5900

The National Food Processors Association (NFPA) requests an extension of 60 days, to October 20, 2000, for the comment period on the referenced notice.

NFPA is the voice of the \$460 billion food processing industry on scientific and public policy issues involving food safety, nutrition, technical and regulatory matters and consumer affairs. NFPA's three scientific centers, its scientists and professional staff represent food industry interests on government and regulatory affairs and provide research, technical services, education, communications and crisis management support for the association's U.S. and international members. NFPA's members produce processed and packaged fruits and vegetables, meat and poultry, seafoods, drinks, and juices or provide supplies and services to food manufacturers.

WASHINGTON, DC
DUBLIN, CA
SEATTLE, WA

A comment period extension of 60 days would provide NFPA and its members with adequate time for careful consideration of the scientific and technical topics on which FDA is seeking comments. As the public meeting in Chicago on July 21 made manifest, the issue of uses of the term "fresh" on foods processed with alternative technologies is quite complicated, and the various sectors of the food industry articulated different perspectives on the subject.

00N-1351

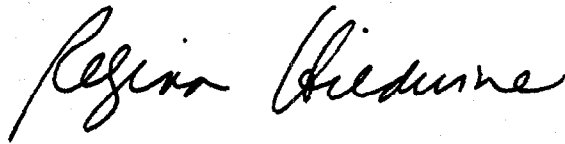
EXT 1

National Food Processors Association
[Docket No. 00N-1351]
August 1, 2000
Page 2

NFPA also notes that the July 3, 2000 Federal Register announcement of the July 21 public meeting allowed for only eighteen calendar days of preparation prior to the meeting. The Federal Register notice also advised that the transcript of the Chicago meeting is likely to be available after August 11, only ten calendar days before the closing of the comment period. This amount of time is not adequate for the preparation of deliberative responses. NFPA is also unaware that FDA is operating in an emergency mode with respect to issues regarding use of the term "fresh."

Therefore, NFPA respectfully requests a 60-day extension of the comment period, to October 20, 2000.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Regina Hildwine".

Regina Hildwine
Senior Director, Food Labeling and Standards
Regulatory Affairs



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